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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO

COUNTRY Cuba

DATE DISTR. 22 November 1948

SUBJECT Murder of Aracelio Iglesias, Communist leader of
Dock Workers Document No. 00

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

DDA Memo, 4 Apr
Auth: DDA REG 77/1763

1. Aracelio Iglesias, Cuban negro Communist labor leader who was assassinated on 17 October, reportedly planned to desert the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP Cuban Communist Party) to join the Accion Revolucionaria Guiteras (ARG).

Comment. The Habana press of 18-19 October reported that Iglesias was seriously wounded while attending a dock syndicate meeting on the morning of 17 October. The shooting occurred while Iglesias was discussing with syndicate members his plans for a visit to the Ministry of Labor the following day. Held in connection with the shooting were Alberto Gomez, Rafael Emilio Soler Puig, and others. Iglesias died early on 18 October, and newspapers attributed the killing to differences between the Cofinista faction--the Comision Obrera Nacional Independiente (CONI) of Angel Cofini, head of the anti-Communist Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC)--and the Lazarista faction--Communist followers of Lazaro Pena, leader of the Communist CTC.

2. [redacted] the death of Iglesias, who was leader of the Communist CTC, was brought about by anti-Communists, rather than by the PSP. Iglesias recently was in disagreement with the political line of Blas Roca, Secretary General of the PSP, who announced in August 1948 that the PSP would have to become more militant and remain in direct and open opposition to the forces which sought to destroy it.
3. Source asserts that if Iglesias had deserted the PSP to enter the ranks of the ARG, he would have taken with him a large personal following of the Communist CTC, and his powerful influence among the dock workers thereafter would be lost to the PSP. It also would have been equally lost to the Comision Obrera Nacional del Partido Revolucionario Cubano (CON-FRC), whose leader is Senator Eusebio Mujal. The ARG allegedly has relations with CONI, and as a result of Iglesias' switch, the Communist Federacion Obrera Maritima Nacional (FOMN) of the old CTC would be controlled by CONI. This would have been a severe blow to the CON, which now controls the anti-Communist FOMN--the FOMN of the new CTC--through Gilberto Goliath, a CON member of the Executive Committee of the CTC. [redacted] Comment. Iglesias had indirect conversations with officials of CONI and ARG and reportedly was on the point of taking his entire organization out of Communist control and placing it under the jurisdiction of Cofino.)

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4. Another reason for Iglesias' intended switch from the PSP-CTC to the ARG-COMI was concerned with financial irregularities. PSP officials reportedly told Iglesias, who had taken large sums of money from his own syndicate, that they did not intend to bring any charges against him if he returned the money, since they considered the offense to be a political one rather than a criminal one. However, Iglesias did not trust them and intended to give back the money which belonged to the syndicate in exchange for the syndicate's promise to permit him to leave the organization and not to take any action against him.
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5. [REDACTED] the Iglesias killing was actually the work of CON. Soler Puig, one of the leaders, and others held for the murder, are members of the "Brigadas Ialu", the shock troops of the CON.

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